GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:460
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010
DEATHS DUE TO VACCINATION
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths of girls due to vaccination by some of the Non Government Organisations, without obtaining the consent of their parents, have been reported from some States including Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has inquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken against those found guilty and also to check occurrence of such cases in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 460 FOR 27TH AUGUST,2010

(a)&(b): PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health), an International NGO, was granted permission to carry out a Post licensure (operational research) study of HPV vaccination in 3 blocks each of Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh and Vadodara District of Gujarat, with the State Governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The objectives of the study are to demonstrate the suitability of vaccine delivery strategies for HPV in the 10-14 year adolescent girls, to raise community awareness of HPV, Cancer of Cervix and its prevention; Gaining experience in HPV vaccination and to build evidence based vaccine delivery strategy for future introduction of HPV in the Universal Immunisation Programme.

In Andhra Pradesh among 14,091 vaccinated girls, five deaths have been reported; whereas in Gujarat two deaths were reported among 10,686 girls. The causes of death among the children in Andhra Pradesh were determined as suicide (2); viral fever (1); drowning in the open well (1); and heat stroke (1). The causes to two deaths in Gujarat were suspected snake bite and severe anaemia with malaria respectively.

(c)to(e): Government has advised the States not to carry out any further vaccinations on the project till further orders. To investigate the allegations of ethical violations, an independent enquiry by a Committee appointed by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, has been ordered. The Committee is expected to complete its work shortly.